

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24. (currently amended) A gasket for a fuel battery wherein a pair of parallel electrodes clamp an electrolyte membrane portion in between through the gasket that is secured in grooves formed in two opposing inner surfaces of the electrodes in the battery, the gasket comprises:

a first gasket lip made of a liquid rubber hardened material and adapted to be secured in a groove formed in one of said electrodes, said first gasket lip including a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in said one groove and a first sealing portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion; and

a second gasket lip made of a liquid rubber hardened material and adapted to be secured in a groove formed in the other electrode, said second gasket lip including a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in the groove in the other electrode and a second sealing portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion;

wherein said first and second sealing portions are arranged to oppose each other in said fuel battery to clamp said electrolyte membrane portion in between; and

~~The gasket for a battery according to claim 23,~~ wherein said first sealing portion has a chevron shape in cross section and said second sealing portion has a trapezoidal shape in cross section.

Claim 25 (cancelled)

Claim 26. (currently amended) A gasket for a fuel battery wherein a pair of parallel electrodes clamp an electrolyte membrane portion in between through the gasket that is secured in grooves formed in two opposing inner surfaces of the electrodes in the battery, the gasket comprises:

a first gasket lip made of a liquid rubber hardened material and adapted to be secured in a groove formed in one of said electrodes, said first gasket lip including a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in said one groove and a first sealing portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion; and

a second gasket lip made of a liquid rubber hardened material and adapted to be secured in a groove formed in the other electrode, said second gasket lip including a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in the groove in the other electrode and a second sealing portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion;

wherein said first and second sealing portions are arranged to oppose each other in said fuel battery to clamp said electrolyte membrane portion in between; and

The gasket for a fuel battery according to claim 23, wherein said first and second sealing portions are provided at positions shifted from the centers in the width direction of said base portions.

Claim 27 (cancelled)

Claim 28. (currently amended) A gasket for a fuel battery wherein a substrate adapted to fit in the fuel battery, said substrate having two opposite surfaces with a pair of grooves, each surface having one groove, said grooves being connected with each other through a connection hole in the substrate, and said gasket being secured in said grooves, said gasket comprises:

a first gasket lip made of a liquid rubber hardened material and adapted to be secured in a groove formed in one of said substrate surfaces, said first gasket lip including a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in

said one groove and a first sealing portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion; and

a second gasket lip made of a liquid rubber hardened material and adapted to be secured in a groove formed in the other substrate surface, said second gasket lip including a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in the groove in the other substrate surface and a second sealing portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion; and

a coupling portion adapted to be secured in said connection hole in said substrate for interconnecting said first and second gasket lips, said coupling portion being made of the same material as those of said first and second gasket lips;

~~The gasket for a fuel battery according to claim 27,~~ wherein said first and second sealing portions are provided at positions shifted from the centers in the width direction of said base portions; and

wherein the connecting hole is provided at a position corresponding to a material injection gate in a mold and a diameter of said connection hole is larger than a diameter of the material injection gate.

Claims 29 – 30 (cancelled)

Claim 31. (currently amended) A method of forming a gasket for a fuel battery, comprising the steps of:

forming a groove in each of two opposing inner surfaces of a pair of electrodes to be arranged parallel to each other in a fuel battery;

disposing one of said pair of electrodes in a first mold;

forming a first gasket lip by injecting a liquid rubber hardened material into the groove in one of said electrodes;

forming on said first gasket lip a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in the groove in said one electrode and a first sealing portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion;

disposing the other of said pair of electrodes in a second mold;

forming a second gasket lip by injecting a liquid rubber hardened material into the groove in the other electrodes;

forming on said second gasket lip a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in the groove in the other electrode and a second sealing portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion; and

providing gaps in said first and second molds before injecting so as to evacuate and thereafter clamping said molds so as to injection-mold said first and second gasket lips;

~~The method of forming a gasket for a fuel battery according to claim 30, wherein said first sealing portion has a chevron shape in cross section and said second sealing portion has a trapezoidal shape in cross section.~~

Claim 32 (cancelled)

Claim 33. (currently amended) A method of forming a gasket for a fuel battery, comprising the steps of:

forming a groove in each of two opposing inner surfaces of a pair of electrodes to be arranged parallel to each other in a fuel battery;

disposing one of said pair of electrodes in a first mold;

forming a first gasket lip by injecting a liquid rubber hardened material into the groove in one of said electrodes;

forming on said first gasket lip a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in the groove in said one electrode and a first sealing portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion;

disposing the other of said pair of electrodes in a second mold;

forming a second gasket lip by injecting a liquid rubber hardened material into the groove in the other electrodes;

forming on said second gasket lip a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in the groove in the other electrode and a second sealing

portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion; and

providing gaps in said first and second molds before injecting so as to evacuate and thereafter clamping said molds so as to injection-mold said first and second gasket lips;

~~The method of forming a gasket for a fuel battery according to claim 30, wherein said connection hole, said first and second portions are provided at positions shifted from the centers in the width direction of said base portions; and~~

wherein the connecting hole is provided at a position corresponding to a material injection gate in a mold and a diameter of said connection hole is larger than a diameter of the material injection gate.

Claim 34 (currently amended) A method of forming a gasket for a fuel battery, comprising the steps of:

forming a groove in one of two opposing inner surfaces of a pair of electrodes to be arranged parallel to each other in a fuel battery;

~~The method of forming a gasket for a fuel battery according to claim 30, further comprising the steps of providing forming a projection on a bottom portion of said groove; in one of said pair of electrodes~~

disposing one of said pair of electrodes with the groove in a first mold;

forming a gasket lip by injecting a liquid rubber hardened material into the groove in one of said electrodes to cover the projection;

wherein the projection is in a substantially triangular cross sectional shape or a substantially trapezoidal cross sectional shape and the gasket lip has a substantially triangular or circular arc cross sectional chevron portion which covers the projection; and

wherein the vertical height of the projection and the gasket lip thereon from the bottom portion of the groove is greater than the depth of the groove, so that the gasket lip is in contact with the opposing inner surface of one of the pair of electrodes when assembled to achieve a sealing function.

Claims 35 – 37 (cancelled)

Claim 38. (currently amended) A method of forming a gasket for a fuel battery, comprising the steps of:

forming a groove on each of two opposite surfaces of a substrate adapted to fit in a fuel battery;

forming a connection hole in said substrate between said grooves to connect said grooves with each other;

disposing said substrate in a mold;

forming a first gasket lip, a second gasket lip, and a coupling portion by injecting a liquid rubber hardened material into said grooves and connection hole in said substrate;

forming on said first gasket lip a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in the grooves in the one surface of said substrate and a first sealing portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion;

forming on said second gasket lip a base portion having a rectangular shape in cross section and adapted to fit in the groove in the other surface of said substrate and a second sealing portion having a given shape in cross section and projected outward from said base portion; and

providing a gap in said mold before injecting so as to evacuate and thereafter clamping said mold so as to injection-mold said first and second gasket lips;

wherein said first and second sealing portions are provided at positions shifted from the centers in the width direction of said base portions; and

~~The method of forming gasket for a fuel battery according to claim 35, wherein said connection hole is provided at a position corresponding to a material injection gate in said mold and a diameter of said connection hole is set to be larger than a diameter of said material injection gate.~~

Claims 39 – 40 (cancelled)

Claim 41. (new) A gasket for a fuel battery wherein a pair of parallel electrodes clamp an electrolyte membrane portion in between through the gasket that is secured on

each of two opposing inner surfaces of the electrodes in the battery, wherein a projection along a gasket lip line is integrally formed on said inner surface of the electrode, and the gasket lip is formed to cover said projection,

wherein an adhesive agent is applied around said projection; and

wherein the projection is in a substantially triangular cross sectional shape or a substantially trapezoidal cross sectional shape and the gasket lip has a substantially triangular or circular arc cross sectional chevron portion which covers the projection.

Claim 42. (new) The gasket for a fuel battery according to claim 41, wherein a groove is form in one of the opposing inner surfaces of the electrodes in the battery that faces the projection and gasket lip; and

wherein the vertical height of the projection and the gasket lip thereon from the inner surface of the electrode is greater than the depth of the groove, so that the gasket lip is in contact with the opposing inner surface of one of the pair of the electrodes when assembled to achieve a sealing function.